

SITUATION REPORT NO. 34
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: February 21, 1997 TIME: 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: No change from previous reports.
4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTION: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) anticipates federal assistance may exceed \$5 million for snow removal costs. More than \$1 million in federal funds has already been approved for 32 applicants whose snow removal costs were reviewed and approved by federal and state inspectors.

The Disaster Field Office (DFO) has submitted 66 Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) to the processing center at FEMA Region VIII in Denver, Colo. Of those DSRs, 51 have been obligated and submitted to the N.D. Division of Emergency Management for delivery to applicants. As the review of DSRs progresses, state and federal officials anticipate closing the Devils Lake and Minot satellite offices by late next week. State and federal inspectors at the Valley City and Bismarck satellite offices will continue meetings with local officials to develop DSRs.

Secretary of the Air Force Sheila Widnall was scheduled on February 21 to present Humanitarian Service Ribbons to Minot and Grand Forks Air Base personnel who participated in snow removal operations.

The final N.D. National Guard snow removal missions ended February 20 as dozer crews completed work in Barnes, Griggs, LaMoure and Stutsman Counties. Crew members were scheduled on February 21 to transport equipment to organizational maintenance shops. All National Guard members should be released from state active duty by February 24. Snow removal costs for the National Guard have exceeded \$1.1 million. This amount will increase as additional equipment and maintenance costs are added to operation expenses.

Latest estimates from the N.D. Department of Transportation indicate approximately \$3.7 million has been spent by the agency for snow removal work. Of that amount, approximately \$2 million was spent for hiring contractors to assist with operations. The remaining \$1.7 million covers state personnel and equipment costs. These cost projections are expected to increase because additional expenses are anticipated for maintenance repairs and service.

The Fargo locations for U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) individual and informational meetings have been changed. The informational meeting will be held February 25, 7 to 9 p.m., at West Acres Shopping Center, Community Room, Lower Level, 3902 13th Avenue S. Individual meetings with business owners will be conducted February 26 and 27, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Lake Agassiz Regional Council, 417 Main Ave. During the informational meeting, SBA representatives will explain the Disaster Relief Program. SBA representatives will meet individually with business owners to answer specific questions and to offer assistance in completion of loan applications.

N.D. Division of Emergency Management staff members are researching the use of ice dusting as a method to lessen the effect of ice jams. This method incorporates the use of bottom ash to melt ice. Areas in the state where repetitive ice jams occur include emergency protective dikes and bridge sites in the Red River Counties of Cass, Grand Forks, Pembina, Richland and Walsh.

Local and state governments have submitted a total of 257 Notice of Interests (NOIs) to participate in the public assistance program. NOIs have been received from: one rural water district, four state agencies, three Indian Reservations, 49 counties and 200 cities. Officials for 47 counties have indicated that all their NOIs have been submitted.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Grand Forks Office of the National Weather Service reported that temperatures had risen above the freezing level on February 18 and 20, the first times since January 1. The National Weather Service forecast for February 21 calls for a few flurries with highs ranging from the teens to around 30.

The next situation report will be issued on February 25, 1997.

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director